

HENRY J. TAYLOR

## Egypt Is Caught In a Red Trap

Our Central Intelligence Agency reports that the Kremlin is now feeding the Egyptian armed forces through a cage. Moscow has quietly shut down on the supply of spare parts that make these forces functional.

The CIA finds that the Soviet navy continues to use Alexandria, Mersa Matruh and Sollum as eastern Mediterranean bases to its own independent benefit. From these it effectively confronts our 6th Fleet elements based in Greece and dependent on Greece. Greece is a strategic imperative to us and we have 12 U. S. military installations there, some of them nuclear.



But in the case of Egypt's own forces Moscow is adopting its classic method of Red control — equip a country but ration the spare parts. And, behind the scenes, the CIA finds Egyptian President Anwar Sadat caught in the trap.

The chief villains in the project are Communist party leader Leonid I. Brezhnev and Red Army Chief of Staff Marshal Matvei Zakharov, the godfather of Egyptian rearmament after the disastrous Six-Day War with Israel. The late President Gamal Abdel Nasser took Sadat with him on his last mission to Moscow before he died. There Sadat courted Brezhnev and Zakharov but, once president, began a private undercover war with both of them.

Zakharov has no respect whatever for the Egyptian military structure. By the first daylight in the Six-Day War, Egyptian officers as a whole on fronts like the Sinai commandeered any available Jeeps, trucks and even ambulances and deserted the troops, fleeing for their own safety to — and across — the Suez Canal. The CIA finds that Zakharov quips about Egyptian officers "who draw their swords and cut down a side street" and believes the Egyptian soldier is not likely to forget all that. In fact, Zakharov makes no attempt to conceal his contempt for everything Egyptian.

Among other affronts, on Zakharov's Cairo visits he repeatedly barred all Egyptians within miles of the Heliopolis airport.

The CIA knew that things then went from bad to worse in Egyptian-Soviet relations, a true coup for CIA Director Richard M. Helms.

When the disgruntled Sadat ordered the Soviet withdrawal the CIA found that the Soviet had in Egypt 5,000 military advisers and 15,000 regular Red Army officers and troops. There were 200 Russian pilots, 69 jet bombers, 365 jet fighters, including four highly advanced MiG-23s, 10 Sukhoi-11s, and 10 TU-16s, 104 helicopters and 14 long-range reconnaissance aircraft.

There were, and remain, 1,500 Russian tanks compared with less than 1,000 before the disastrous Six-Day War, 570 pieces of heavy Soviet artillery, 1,100 armored personnel carriers and at least 50 Soviet-built missile-launching bases with extremely intricate search radar.

The CIA located more than 1,000 Soviet SAM missiles. Many are on tracked vehicles and thus mobile. These are now deployed from the port of Alexandria to upper Egypt where they protect the \$500 million Russian-built Aswan Dam. This is the most expensive Soviet foreign-aid project in existence anywhere.

But all this Soviet military equipment lives on spare parts obtainable only from the U. S. S. R., and the CIA finds that through the Kremlin rationing plan the mobile rocket units, trucks, tanks, artillery, etc., are rapidly growing inoperable. The Kremlin masters are proving again that there are countless ways they can twist your arm without laying a hand on you.

The CIA also finds that in a companion operation the Soviet secret infiltration is crippling the Egyptian intelligence services.

The top apparatus is the Muhabbarat El-Amma, or General Intelligence Agency (GIA), with almost unlimited powers of arrest, inquisition, etc. It is responsible to President Sadat personally. The Muhabbarat El-Amma is the secret police and is under the Minister of Interior. It deals with internal security.

Both services employ what Egyptians call "The Public Eye": hundreds of thousands of informers everywhere — in hotels, in bazaars, in offices, on street corners, in all gatherings, etc. "The Public Eye" performs for bits of bakhsish (bribe money), small favors or whatnot and the Soviet infiltration is shortcircuiting everything.

By rationing Egypt in the shipment of spare parts on the one hand and this crippling of Egyptian intelligence on the other the Kremlin masters retain their mastery.